

Call for Papers: The Manifesto Corpus Conference

1-2 February 2018

Manifesto Research on Political Representation (MARPOR)

WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Germany

Conference Organizers: Pola Lehmann, Theres Matthieß, Nicolas Merz, Sven Regel

manifesto-conference@wzb.eu | <https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu/conference-2018>

The Manifesto Project team invites users of the Manifesto Corpus to submit abstracts and papers for a conference on 1-2 February 2018 to be held at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center in Berlin, Germany.

The Manifesto Project and its data collection have had a strong influence on research on political parties in the last several decades. For the past thirty years the general purpose of the Manifesto Project has been to measure political preferences of parties across time and space. The project has been funded by the German Research Foundation since 2009 under the name “Manifesto Research on Political Representation (MARPOR)” — in former times it was run under the names “Manifesto Research Group (MRG)” and “Comparative Manifestos Project (CMP)”. The project’s Manifesto Dataset offers data on party preferences on specific issues and overarching policy scales for parties from 1945 until today in over fifty countries.

The creation of the Manifesto Corpus has been the most significant recent innovation by the project. The Manifesto Corpus is a digital open-access multilingual annotated corpus of electoral programs, based on the collection of the Manifesto Project — which comprises the largest collection of annotated electoral programs currently in existence. It covers 2,195 pdf documents, 2,191 machine-readable texts and 1,013 digitally coded documents from more than 40 different countries, in more than 30 languages, and with more than 850,000 human annotated statements.

The aim of the conference is to bring together scholars who use the Manifesto Corpus from the social sciences, linguistics, communication studies and computer science, and to foster a dialogue between users and the core team. The conference offers participants the opportunity to present current projects that use the Manifesto Corpus.

In particular we are looking for contributions that

- Make innovative use of the Manifesto Corpus for substantial research on political parties, political science in general, communication studies or linguistics.
- Apply existing semi or fully automated content analytic methods to the Manifesto Corpus, and develop new tools or improve existing methods in content analysis using the Manifesto Corpus.

- Train and validate a classifier on the annotations of the Manifesto Corpus to code new documents.
- Advance the methodological debate on the Manifesto Corpus and the Manifesto Data in general.

For more information on the Manifesto Project and the Manifesto Corpus, please visit our website at

<https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu/information/documents/corpus>

Manifesto Corpus Award

The paper with the best and most innovative application of the Manifesto Corpus presented at the conference will receive an award and 1,000€ in prize money. To be eligible for the award, the abstract need to be selected by the conference committee and the paper must be submitted before the paper submission deadline. Details including the makeup of the prize committee will soon be found on the conference website.

Keynote Speaker:

Margaret E. Roberts

Discussants:

Gijs Schumacher, Ken Benoit (tbc), ...

Submissions:

Please submit an abstract of max. 300 words with a paper title, 3-5 keywords, and the name and affiliation of all authors to manifesto-conference@wzb.eu.

Deadline for abstract submission: 2 October 2017

Notification of acceptance: 13 October 2017

Deadline for paper submission: 22 January 2018

Travel costs:

We are able to cover travel costs of up to 400 euro for scholars from Europe, and up to 600 euro for scholars coming from outside of Europe. Reimbursement is limited to one author per paper. In case you are in need of such a travel grant in order to attend the conference, please inform us.